

CA305 Main Continuous Assessment Assignment 2009-2010

(21% of module marks)

Part 1: Comparative analysis of two published articles (8%)

Each 2-person team must choose to work on *any two* of the following published articles.

There may one 3-person team and, if so, this team must report on *any three* of the articles.

Authors	Title	Publication details
Chen, Miller, Jiang, Klein	Communication skills importance and proficiency: perception differences between IS staff and IS users	International Journal of Information Management, Volume 25, Issue 3, June 2005, Pages 215-227
Collyer, Warren	Project management approaches for dynamic environments	International Journal of Project Management, Volume 27, Issue 4, May 2009, Pages 355-364
Dalcher, Drevin	Learning from Information Systems failures by using narrative and antenarrative methods	Proceedings of SAICSIT 2003, Pages 137 –142
Korzaan, Morris	Individual characteristics and the intention to continue project escalation	Computers in Human Behavior, Volume 25, Issue 6, November 2009, Pages 1320-1330
Mahaney, Lederer	Information systems project management: an agency theory interpretation	Journal of Systems and Software Volume 68, Issue 1, 15 October 2003, Pages 1-9
Procaccino, Verner	Software project managers and project success: An exploratory study	Journal of Systems and Software, Volume 79, Issue 11, November 2006, Pages 1541-1551
Stamelos	Software project management anti-patterns	Journal of Systems and Software, In Press, Corrected Proof, Available online 9 September 2009

The task consists of studying each of the chosen articles carefully until the team has a very clear understanding of the content. Then, a report of between two and three thousand words (about 5 or 6 pages)

- summarising the content of the two articles
- presenting the chief results and conclusions of each article
- identifying any points of agreement or disagreement between the articles.

should be prepared and submitted.

Part 2: Analysis, and Preparation of a Timeline, of a known failed project (4%)

The following two published articles contain details of three failed or problematic software-based projects. Each 2-person team must **choose one** of the three projects to work on, while a 3-person team must work on any two of the three projects.

Authors	Title	Publication details
Dalcher, Tully	Learning from Failures	Softw. Process Improve. Pract. 2002; 7: 71–89
	This article describes two related problematic projects in its sections 2 and 3. Thus, FIRST CASE: LONDON AMBULANCE SERVICE (section 2) SECOND CASE: METROPOLITAN AMBULANCE SERVICE, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA (section 3)	
Oz	When professional standards are lax. The CONFIRM failure and its lessons	Communications of the ACM, October 1994, Vol. 37, No. 10, 29-36

The task consists of

- (1) Creation of a time-line of the chosen project(s) using *Microsoft Project* or a similar tool. The time-line should identify the major activities and decision points.
- (2) Preparation of a summary report on the chosen project of between eight hundred and a thousand words (1 to 2 pages). The time-line of step (1) should be referenced from the summary report and should help in making the report succinct.

Part 3: Preparation of a detailed Project Development Plan (9%)

Summary: Essentially, this assignment is to **develop a very detailed project development plan**, starting from the “SW Development Plan” template given in the lecture notes, for either

(a) **Your third year project** (module CA326)

or

(b) ESA ITT “**HW-SW SYSTEMC Co-simulation SOC validation platform**”

[In the case of (b) you are not expected to have a technical understanding of the content.]

In both cases, the plan should be as realistic as possible showing, of course, all mandatory deadlines etc. For example, in (a) there are deadlines related to functional specification, other documentation, demonstration, etc, while in (b) the ITT defines various milestones, meetings and so on. For (a) you should decide on some arbitrary hourly charge for yourself (and partner if there is one) so that you can calculate and display budgetary information. Similarly, in (b), you will have to decide on labour (and perhaps other) charges.

Objectives: In general, the objectives of the assignment are to re-enforce students’ learning about project planning and how to document it. It is required that *MicroSoft Project* or a similar tool be used for the assignment, especially in chapter 5 of the project plan (“Work packages, schedule and budget”).